

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

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- New First Harmonic!

Congratulations Terri and Kevin!

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

Fasten your seatbelts readers. Our summer of being DX continues with the activation of W100AW/4 during the Huntsville Hamfest. The activation coincides with NAQP Phone and we all know, nothing like a contest to open up the high bands. Tom KG4CUY has put tremendous effort into the planning, balancing the desires of League officials with what's practical for the available manpower.

Beginning Friday morning of the Hamfest those plans turn to action. We will be constructing 3 directional antennas on two towers plus wire antennas for two stations running CW & Phone. We're hopeful that reminiscent of the movie *Field of Dreams* where "If you build it, he will come"; we need operators now to fill the chairs. Each operator spending only an hour at a radio will help spread the workload. Hope you can spare some time during the busy week-end to put your name on the schedule.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to join the special event activation of W4A, commemorating the 45th anniversary of Apollo 11 at the Huntsville Space & Rocket Center. The Huntsville Amateur Radio Club turned out between 27 & 30 members with experience levels ranging from newly licensed Tech's to seasoned

Elmers. Spent a few hours at the microphone running pile-ups in what turned out to be a very popular event but the most rewarding part was observing other operators.

Technicians with some domestic Field Day experience were on 20m suddenly hearing & working DL's, IZ's, EA's, etc. It was truly fun to watch as these folks with ears attuned to hearing callsigns usually beginning with W, K, or N were now hearing and working the world. And with each stint in the chair those new operators got more comfortable in managing the pile and their rates crept upward. Very memorable to all involved.

I want to commend NADXC & HARC club member MD, WA4DXP for both his initiative at getting the W4A event off the ground and his organization of the details which made it such a success.

Alabama's second turn for state activation of W1AW/4 begins on October 15 with that Saturday being the 18th. Might that date be a good time for the annual NADXC picnic and some fun packed field operating?

73,
Mark

August Program

We'll discuss upcoming Hamfest activities (there are many), and toss around the idea of a picnic later in the year. We're at Ryan's again, and may share the room with another group, so get there early and stake your claim!

The NADXC Hamfest Banquet is just around the corner. Bob Allphin, K4UEE will be telling about his experiences as FT5ZM in Amsterdam Island.. The Banquet is at the Best Western on

Hwy 20 in Madison.



The 2014 ARRL National Convention

By John Stensby, N5DF

The multi-level Connecticut Convention Center, downtown Hartford, is huge and impressive. Over July 17-19, it was the venue for the ARRL's 100th anniversary bash. The fest had a good-size dealer show, an excellent forum/presentation line up, a luncheon, a banquet, and a small flea market.

As shown by Figure 1, Kay, N3KN, kicked off the show. Then, the League's top brass assembled on stage and cut the opening ribbon.

With all of the new equipment, the dealer show was "eye candy". Luso, a Japanese tower manufacturer, did not bring their monster tower (shown at Dayton); they had something better. Figure 2 depicts the Luso girls, dressed appropriately. Many hams spent time flirting ... er ... talking tower with these YLs.

A number of forums and presentations were held. Figure 3 shows Joe Taylor, K1JT, discussing his weak signal, digital communication software.

For this ham, the high point was a visit to HQ and W1AW. I wander freely around the first floor of the HQ building, visiting every office/department and talking to HQ staff. Figure 4 depicts Bob, WB1GCM, in his shield room (pitching his latest book on transceiver product review methodology). The iconic W1AW station is shown by Figure 5.

The Vintage Radio and Communication Museum of Connecticut can be found in Windsor, CT, just up the road from Hartford. For anyone interested in vintage radio, this museum is in the "must visit" category. Extremely knowledgeable and helpful volunteer staff members were available for guided

tours. Or, if desired, a visitor could do an unguided walk through. An extremely rare Tuska Type 225 receiver appears as Figure 6. Tuska, co-founder of the ARRL, had his own radio company, selling high-performance receivers based on a variometer (just Google it).

As an impressionable young ham some 50 years ago, I could only read the gold-ink-rimmed pages of the QST that hyped the ARRL Golden Anniversary. So, I was determined not to miss this one. I won't be around for the next one!

73,

John N5DF



Fig. 1. Kay, N3KN, gives opening remarks



Fig. 2. Luso booth babes.



Fig. 3. Joe, K1JT, on weak signal digital

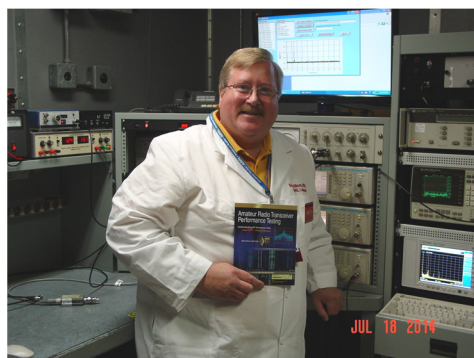


Fig. 4. Bob, WB1GCM, pitching his latest book.



Fig. 5. W1AW.



Fig. 6. Tuska Type 225 RX.

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July Meeting Minutes

By Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK

1. Mark Brown, N4BCD was out of town this month so Warren Alford our VP kicked off the meeting – we had 20 in attendance with 2 guests.

2. Chris Reed, KF4MMF reported he has upgraded his station to the new Kenwood TS-590, Kelly Johns reported having successfully worked all 13 Colonies in addition to a EU, HA, YV, UX, EF6 S58, F5, ZX PC, and CE prefixes this month. Chuck Lewis, N4NM reported working KL7RA on 6 M, Tim Wining-er, AB4B reported a KL7, EU, T5 and JA on 6M. Johnny Winter, KR4F also reported KL7RA on 6M.

3. Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK spoke for a few minutes regarding our new web site. There is minimal function of the web site at this point because of the sensitivity to enable ordering Banquet tickets on line and the move to a paid hosting service from QTH.COM. Since this change our web site has been up and running without interruption of services and ordering of on line tickets has exceeded all expectations. As of

this writing (6-Aug) we have sold 52 tickets, with 14 paid by cash/check, 38 on line via the web page.

4. Bill Bathgate called to attention the group to thank Michael Werner, KF4BOG for his long and dedicated service with our web site over these many years and the whole group gave Michael a loud round of applause.

5. Tom Duncan, KG4CUY gave an update on the W100AW/4 activation; Tom called for signups for operators to take shifts for the Ham Fest weekend. If you have not signed up for a slot please contact Tom Duncan.

6. We had no formal program this meeting because we had much to discuss regarding the W100AW/4 activation needs and the Ham Fest activities.

7. Craig Behrens, NM4T gave us an update on the QRP activities over Ham Fest weekend, with 7 Ham Fest sessions on QRP and Buddipoles, there are also special sessions at Monte Sano Park on the evening of August

16th. Craig also introduced us all to the new Vibroplex folding antenna product, see <http://www.vibroplex.com/contents/en-us/d3.html>. It was a very unique arrangement originating in Germany.

8. It was announced that the meeting on August 12th will be at Ryan's Steak house, 1818 University Drive, Huntsville, AL. Overall everyone was pleased with the food and room arrangements so we will continue to use Ryan's as we confirm our ability to solely occupy this meeting room.

9. Current announced Bank Balance.

Beginning Balance \$ 3,479.65

Deposits \$ 913.36

Withdrawals 0.00

Ending Balance \$4,393.04

Notes provided by:

William Bathgate KD8IGK – NADXC
Treasurer and Secretary

Summer DX Challenge Update

By Steve Werner, AG4W

The project to add SE and SW capability to my NW and NE existing beverages is complete. I had some doubts about the approach so I did not discuss it in last month's article. The approach allows the existing beverages to work in the existing configuration as directional to the NW or NE or will switch out the termination resistor and be bi-directional and also cover the SE and SW. Most of you are aware that reversible beverages are possible using ladder line and using a transformer on each end of the beverage. I was wanting to not have to spend the money on ladder line or the upgraded transformers if I could make the terminator switch work without adding any wires. It

does not have the same performance as a single direction beverage, but I was surprised how little I gave up.

I was able to power a relay at the end of the beverage wire to switch in and out the resistor by using the single beverage wire only to power the relay. Again most of you are familiar with using your coax lead to power something at the end of it by using capacitors and chokes to isolate the DC to power a relay from the RF. The shield is the return for the DC. What seemed high risk to me was to use the ground for the return. Dirt! It turns out I am not the first to try this so I should not of been too worried. It turns out the original real

CW guys used a single wire telegraph wire and they also used the ground (dirt) for the return. So my beverage became in effect a telegraph system. The surprise was that it worked. I was shocked to see what little effect it had whether the ground was dry or wet. I was prepared for some voltage drop but was again pleased with how little it was.

The photographs show the 2 capacitors and choke that was added to the DX Engineering beverage matching transformer, the DC injector box in the shack, the relay box that switches out

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Summer DX Challenge Update

(cont'd from p. 3)

the termination resistor and the switch control box. The switches on the control box are NE/NW, preamp, on/off across the top and the Dir/BiDir on the bottom. The first QSO using it was on 80M with New Zealand to the SW. This is a great addition for those no sunspot days that drive us to the low bands.

Other Summer DX Activities

We have had some great openings on 6 meters during the 4th of July weekend. Adding to the country count on 6 meters using only sporadic E propagation is tough. A few like Tim, AB4B are good at it. On that weekend we had a good opening into Europe. This is rare, but somewhat predictable. Each year at around that time we have a notable improvement in sporadic E. These openings are usually short and can favor very specific locations at both ends. To get a double hop sporadic E

contact mostly involves lots of seat time. I have said it many times that being on the air gets you some really interesting contacts. Those that listened during that weekend were treated to FP/KV1J, CR2WRTC, KL7RA, EA8TL, CN8KD, CT1HZE, and CU1EZ.

I made listening on 6 meters a little more interesting this summer by going after VUCC. Many in the club have worked DX to the honor roll level. There are others that have taken that to the next level with DXCC Challenge. While you are waiting for one of those rare openings on 6M for a new country you will have many opportunities to work new grid squares. There are 488 grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States. In the last 6 months I have worked over 100 of them on 6 meters. It is great getting credit for working the easy ones. You can get plenty of them

in the VHF contests. Most of the VHF folks are using LOTW so I earned VUCC with just LOTW.

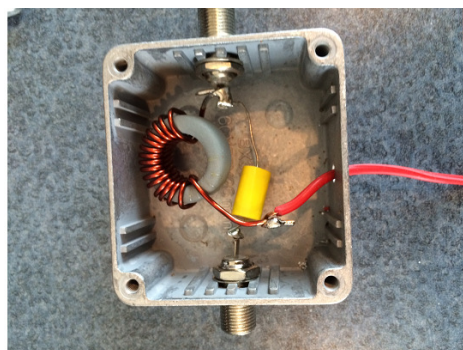
Last week I also did my yearly WPX award submission. They now accept LOTW and eQSL and of course cards for credit. This year I qualified for the 30M plate for my Award of Excellence plaque. This is another award that you can chase for a lifetime. Enjoy the summer, but also prepare for the upcoming DX and contesting season. It is also a great time to get your cards checked for DXCC at the Huntsville Hamfest.

73,

Steve AG4W

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	Warren Alford, KJ4RAQ
Secretary/ Treasurer	Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK
At-large directors	Chuck Lewis, N4NM Tom Duncan, KG4CUY Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI



DX Contests for August

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

WAE CW DX Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Aug 9, 0000Z to Aug. 10, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus serial No. See web for QTC rules.

See page 74 August QST and www.waedc.de

SARTG WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Aug. 16, to Aug. 17; see website for times

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See page 74, August QST and www.sartg.com/contest/wwrules.htm

Keymen's Club of Japan Contest (CW), 160-6 meters

Aug. 16, 1200Z to Aug. 17, 1200Z

Exchange: RST and prefecture or continent

See page 74, August QST and www.kcj-cw.com

Russian District Award Contest, (CW, SSB), 160-10 meters

Aug. 16, 0800Z to Aug. 17, 0800Z

Exchange: RS(T), Serial or Russian District

See page 74, August QST and rda-ward.org/rdac1.htm

YO DX Contest, (CW,SSB), 80-10 meters

Aug. 30, 1200Z to Aug. 31, 1159Z

Exchange: RS(T), Serial or YO district

See page 74, August QST and www.yodx.ro

OTHERS:

SARL Digital Contest,

1300Z – 1630Z, Aug. 17

Run for the Bacon,

0100Z – 0300Z, Aug. 18

SCC RTTY championship,

1200Z, Aug. 23 to 1159Z, Aug. 24

SARL HF CW Contest,

1300-1630, Aug 24

All Asian DX Contest, Phone

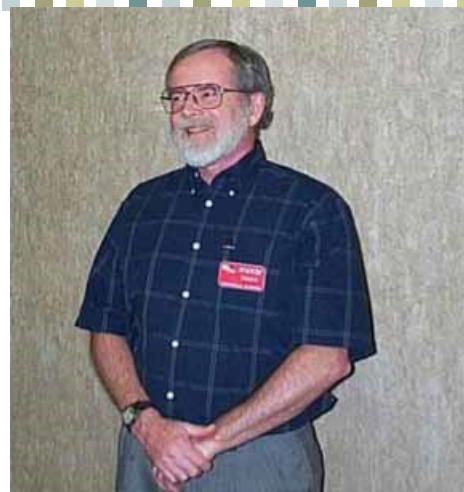
0000Z, Sep 6 to 2400Z, Sep 7

WAE DX Contest, SSB;

0000Z, Sep 13 to 2359Z, Sep 14

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM



First Harmonic

By Terri and Kevin Hibbs



Charles Franklin Hibbs, first harmonic of Kevin and Terri Hibbs was born just before midnight on Wednesday, July 30, 2014. He weighed 7 lbs, 1 oz and was 19.5 in. long. Mother and baby are both doing fine. Daddy is still trying to figure out diaper changing.

The LongPath Staff

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Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President